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Letter dated 21 October 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 19 October 2009 addressed to you by Kemal Gökeri, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 8.

(*Signed*) Ertuğrul **Apakan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

09-57868 (E) 291009

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Annex to the letter dated 21 October 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 25 September 2009 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative and circulated as a document of the General Assembly (A/64/467), which contains the written statement of the Greek Cypriot delegation in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, on 24 September 2009, in the General Assembly. In the face of the gross misrepresentations and distortions contained in that letter, I feel compelled to set the record straight.

In the said letter, the Greek Cypriot delegation levels accusations against Turkey for attempting "to introduce elements that are not part of the agreed process" and "to alter the nature of negotiations that would endanger the end result of that process". First and foremost, I wish to point out that the Greek Cypriot side should be the last to complain about this, as it is the Greek Cypriot side who is detracting from the agreed process and United Nations parameters by trying to introduce new elements which have never been an issue of discussion between the two leaders, such as the "evolution of the unitary state (Republic of Cyprus) into a federal state consisting of two autonomous regions". Moreover, it should be borne in mind that it was the Turkish Cypriot people, with the support and encouragement of Turkey, who overwhelmingly voted for the latest United Nations Comprehensive Settlement Plan, known as the "Annan Plan". Therefore, it is ironic that the representative of an administration which campaigned for and achieved the rejection of the Annan Plan, the embodiment of a "bicommunal, bizonal federation with political equality as set out in Security Council resolutions", is trying to apportion blame on Turkey.

Instead of playing with words and claiming that the Turkish side is trying to upgrade the status of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), the Greek Cypriot side should come forth with the "mentality" change it advocates and honour the agreement of 23 May 2008 (S/2008/353, annex III) reached between the two leaders on the island which commits the two sides to "a Federal Government" with "a Turkish Cypriot Constituent State and a Greek Cypriot Constituent State, which will be of equal status". I would like to remind the Greek Cypriot representative and his delegation that this agreement also refers to the establishment of a new "partnership". The leaders used this terminology after they both confirmed during the meeting that the 1960 agreement was a partnership State and that the task before them now was to renew that partnership with a comprehensive settlement.

As to the habitually repeated claim of "isolation ... is the direct consequence of the ongoing occupation of a substantial part of Cyprus by Turkish troops", I would like to remind the Greek Cypriot representative at the outset that the Turkish intervention, which was carried out in accordance with Turkey's rights and obligations under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee, did not come about until 1974 and was the direct result of the coup d'état, carried out by the joint Greek-Greek Cypriot front, which aimed to annex the island to Greece and annihilate the Turkish Cypriot people in line with the notorious Akritas Plan. Therefore, contrary to the Greek Cypriot representative's claim, the only occupation in the island is the 46-year-long occupation of the seat of "Government of Cyprus" by the Greek Cypriot administration.

As to the issue of inhuman isolations imposed on the Turkish Cypriots, I would like to state that this is not something new which happened after the Turkish intervention in 1974. The isolations date back to December 1963, poisoning the relationship between the two parties in Cyprus and impeding a settlement. These illegal and immoral isolations are in blatant violation of the United Nations Charter and in contravention of the relevant international human rights instruments. The Greek Cypriot administration's claim that the current anomaly in the island and isolation of the Turkish Cypriots is "the result of Turkish occupation" is nothing other than a distortion of facts aimed at concealing the responsibility of the Greek Cypriot side in the creation and perpetuation of the Cyprus problem and the isolation. It should be recalled that as early as 10 September 1964, in his report to the Security Council, the then Secretary-General described the inhuman restriction imposed upon the Turkish Cypriot people by the Greek Cypriot authorities under the usurped title of the "Government of Cyprus" as being so severe that it amounted to a "veritable siege" (United Nations Document S/5950).

After 40 years of Turkish Cypriots having been subjected to unjust and inhuman isolations, the former Secretary-General stated in his report dated 28 May 2004 that:

> The Turkish Cypriot vote [in the referendum on the Annan Plan] has undone any rationale for pressuring and isolating them. I would hope that the members of the Council can give a strong lead to all States to cooperate both bilaterally and in international bodies, to eliminate unnecessary restrictions and barriers that have the effect of isolating Turkish Cypriots and impeding their development.

The Greek Cypriots continue to construe any step taken by the Turkish Cypriot side or Turkey to overcome the inhuman isolation as a step towards upgrading or seeking recognition of the TRNC. In this regard, we welcome the fact that the Secretary-General had the following to say in paragraph 47 of his report on the United Nations operation in Cyprus of 3 December 2007 (S/2007/699):

> It is regrettable that the ongoing debate on the lifting of the isolation of the Turkish Cypriots has become a debate on recognition [...]. The maintenance of economic, social, cultural, sporting or similar ties or contacts does not amount to recognition. On the contrary, it will benefit all Cypriots by building trust, creating a more even playing field and thus greatly contributing to the reunification of the island. It is therefore important for all actors concerned to reframe the debate and their actions with a view to achieving this crucial objective in conformity with Security Council resolutions.

Last but not least, Turkey, which is currently a non-permanent member of the Security Council, as well as a regional power, is doing its utmost to uphold international law and does not require any advice from the Greek Cypriots who declared that the 1960 Constitution is "dead and buried" and expelled the equal co-founder partner, namely the Turkish Cypriots, at gunpoint from all institutions of the binational state.

Finally, I would like to put on record once again, that the Turkish Cypriot side remains as committed as ever to finding a comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus problem in the shortest possible time under the good-offices mission of the Secretary-General and on the basis of established United Nations parameters and the United Nations body of work.

(*Signed*) Mustafa Kemal **Gökeri**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus